

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 20-48 are pending. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-9, 11-15, 17, 26, 30, 31, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claims 34-48 have been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-17 and 20-33 are allowed. Applicants have made minor formal amendments to allowed claims 5 and 26, and minor editorial changes to the first word of the preamble in dependent claims 2-9 and 11-15, for consistency (changing "A" to "The").

As to allowed method claims 17, 23-25 and 30-33, amendments have been made to independent method claims 17 and 30 to ensure that they meet with the requirements of In re Bilski, i.e., to recite the apparatus on which the method is performed, without otherwise changing their scope. Dependent claims 31-33 also have been amended to correct an inadvertent error in their respective preambles. Allowed method claims 17, 23-25 and 30-33 are believed still to be in condition for allowance after these formal amendments.

New independent claims 34, 40, 44 and 45 have been added. These new independent claims substantially correspond to the subject matter of allowed independent claims 1, 10, 16 and 26, respectively, but are not written in means plus function format. Moreover, these new independent claims do not recite the order input devices as forming part of the system, the order input devices being recited only inferentially. Applicants submit that the new independent claims are, in any event, patentable for substantially the same reasons as their corresponding allowed independent claims. The new dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by Togher. The cancellation of those claims renders their rejections moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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